



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

December 15, 2005

The Honorable Bill Hardiman, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on FIA
Michigan State Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Rick Shaffer, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Shaffer:

Section 421 of Public Act 147 of 2005 (Enrolled Senate Bill No. 271) states: *The Department shall allow private nationally accredited foster care and adoption agencies to conduct their own staff training, based on current Department policies and procedures provided that the agency trainer and training materials are accredited by the Department, and that the agency documents to the Department that the training was provided. The Department shall provide access to any training materials requested by the private agencies to facilitate this training. The intent of the legislature is to reduce training and travel costs for both the Department and the private agencies.*

The Office of Training and Staff Development (OTSD) is currently working with training staff (identified during the Private Public Partnership Initiative) from Wedgewood and Eagle Village to develop Child Welfare Institute (CWI) curriculum specifically for delivery by private agencies. This will allow for private agencies to use a training curriculum that is consistent with what is currently taught during the CWI 8-week new worker institute. Also under development is a method of evaluation to assure consistency between public and private agency curriculum delivery.

Progress to date is limited to week one of the institute curriculum. Private agency trainers have monitored the class and are in the process of drafting a revised curriculum that will minimize student travel.

To date no private agency has requested training material from OTSD to facilitate training.

If you have any questions, please contact John Sorbet, Chief Administrative Officer, at 373-7787.

Sincerely,

Marianne Udow

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Committees
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
State Budget Director